

## REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 27, 2002 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 2 and 4 are canceled. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claims 1 and 3 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed November 27, 2002, the specification and Abstract are objected to as containing minor informalities. The specification has been amended to correct the informalities as suggested by the Examiner. In view of the amendments to the specification and the Abstract, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification now be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 are objected to as containing minor informalities. Claims 2 and 4 are canceled. Claim 1 is amended and now includes the limitations of original claim 2. Claims 1 and 3 are amended to overcome the Examiner's objections to the claims. More specifically, the preambles of claims 1 and 3 have been amended to recite a one-piece construction of a plug frame. In claim 1, the phrase "characterized in that" is canceled. Claim 1 has also been amended to provide antecedent basis for "the optical fiber cables". In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 1-4 now be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,404,416 (Iwano).

Before discussing the cited prior art and the Examiner's rejections of the claims in view of that art, a brief summary of the present invention is appropriate. The present invention relates to a one-piece construction of a plug frame for an optical connector component for use in

connections between fiber optic cables. Referring to Figs. 1-3 of the present application, plug frame 33 is made of a one-piece construction. A ferrule 2 is floatingly supported in the plug frame 33 by a flange 32 attached to the ferrule 2. The plug frame 33 includes a first engagement portion 49 for engaging a first optical connector component and a second engagement portion 56 for engaging a second optical connector component. As stated on page 5, lines 15-19, and in the background at page 4, lines 13-21, the type of plug-frame that is the subject of the present invention is designed to have optical connector components mounted on both sides of the plug frame. Accordingly, the plug frame 33 connects the first and second optical connector components.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the plug frame includes first and second connectors for engaging two separate optical connector components. Support for this limitation is in original claim 2. Page 4, lines 13-21 and page 5, lines 15-19 describe that the devices that are the subject of the present invention are designed to be connected to a plug (first connector component) and an adapter (second connector component).

Iwano discloses an optical connector plug which is used to connect an optical cable to a connector component. As shown in Fig. 16(a) and 16(b) and described in col. 2, lines 45-64, of Iwano, a cable 204 is connected to one end of a plug ferrule 201. The plug ferrule is slidably fitted in a plug housing 202. The other end of the plug ferrule is mated with a jack ferrule. Accordingly, Iwano teaches a connector for connecting the end of a cable to a connector component, i.e., the jack.

Iwano requires only one engagement portion for connecting to one connection component. The Office Action states that the left side of the housing 202 in Fig. 16(b) is an engagement portion. However, Iwano fails to disclose that the left end connects to any connector

component. Rather, the cable 204 which enters the housing 202 from the left side, is directly connected to the ferrule 201. Accordingly, Iwano fails to disclose two engagement portions for engaging first and second connector components. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Iwano under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Furthermore, since Iwano discloses a connector for connecting an optical cable to a connector component, it is respectfully submitted that Iwano fails to teach or suggest the claimed plug frame having two engagement portions for engaging two connector components. Therefore, Iwano discloses a wholly different type of plug frame which is attached to the end of an optical cable. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is also not obviated by Iwano under 35 U.S.C. §103.

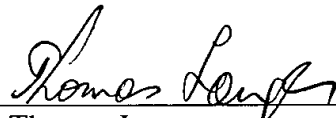
Dependent claim 3 has been amended to clarify that that a flange on the ferrule abuts first and second abutments in the plug frame. Support for this is in the specification at page 10, lines 14-22. Dependent claim 3, being dependent on independent claim 1 is allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are currently due. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By   
Thomas Langer  
Reg. No. 27,264  
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210  
New York, New York 10176  
(212) 687-2770

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